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**COURT ORDERS EPA TO ENSURE PESTICIDES WON'T HARM SALMON**

U.S. District Judge John Coughenour has ordered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take action to protect Pacific salmon from pesticides. The court found that the EPA violated the Endangered Species Act by creating rules for using many pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides, but not consulting the National Marine Fisheries Service about the chemicals' possible effects on salmon, despite the EPA's own findings that pesticides harm salmon.

The ruling would restrict use of 55 agricultural chemicals, many commonly used on farm fields and suburban lawns in the Northwest. The EPA must review three chemicals by July 15 and the remaining 52 by December 2004. The results of the review could change the sale or use of these chemicals. A decision to appeal the ruling hasn't been made yet.

**HATCHERY REFORM PROPOSED**

Recent reports that salmon from the Eagle Hatchery in Idaho cost \$7,400 each, while not necessarily the best indication of the true cost or value of hatchery fish, have nonetheless rekindled the debate on whether hatcheries are worth the expense.

Each year, \$80 million is spent in the Columbia Basin alone to maintain hatcheries that were created to mitigate the effects of overfishing, dams, and habitat destruction. Biologists argue that hatchery fish are poorly suited for life in the wild and can weaken wild stocks by taking their food or habitat and by interbreeding with them.

While the role of hatcheries remains controversial, it appears that their future role will be less tied to production for harvest and more tied to the recovery of natural, self-sustaining populations of fish. Last April, an independent panel of scientists recommended an overhaul of Washington's hatchery programs. Governor Gary Locke and other government officials said they would push to implement the recommendations, which include:

- ❑ Measure a hatchery's success by the number and quality of healthy adult salmon that return to spawn in a particular watershed — rather than by the number of hatchery fish produced.
- ❑ Cap the number of fish that hatcheries produce until it's clearer how hatchery fish are affecting the survival of wild salmon.
- ❑ Increase oversight and accountability at hatcheries.
- ❑ Require managers to breed fish from species native to the local ecosystem.

**NEW REPORT OKAYS DREDGING**

The National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have given the Army Corps of Engineers the green light to dredge the Columbia River shipping channel from 40 to 43 feet between Vancouver and Astoria. The agencies' new

biological opinion concludes that the project will not harm salmon and that damage to the Columbia River estuary would be limited and short-term in nature. The opinion accepts the Corps' pledge to restore 3,400 acres of off-channel fish habitat.

Proponents of dredging say that enabling larger, modern ships to reach Vancouver, Portland, and other ports will benefit the region's economy. Before the \$196 million project can get underway, the Corps still needs to obtain funding from Congress. The Corps' economic analysis came under scrutiny last spring when The Oregonian newspaper concluded that the return on the project was only 88 cents for every dollar spent on construction, and not \$2 as claimed by the Corps. The Corps has since scaled back expectations and now says the project will yield \$1.46 in reduced shipping costs for every dollar spent.

### **POACHERS FACE HIGHER PENALTIES**

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission recently voted 7 to 1 to direct the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to petition the court to increase bail amounts poachers must pay when cited for illegally taking salmon protected by the Endangered Species Act. Under current state court rules, the bail amount for fishing during a closed season is \$100, with no distinction between taking an ESA-protected salmon or poaching a non-protected species.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission wants to see bail amounts increased to as much as \$800 per poached fish for those who knowingly take ESA-protected species during closed seasons. The new rules were developed in the wake of fish-poaching cases in 2001, including an incident last July on the Skagit River in which a man readily admitted to intentionally poaching a 40-pound protected chinook salmon.

According to Lee Van Tussenbrook, Regional Director for WDFW Region 5, deliberate poaching in southwest Washington has not been a significant problem identified by enforcement. "To date, we have had one case on the Lewis system where one angler was cited, a few occasions where mainstem fishermen have been investigated to no end, and one case in the mouth of the Columbia where a fisherman was cited for numerous violations. Most anglers comply with regulations so fisheries can occur and ESA fish will be protected."

### **SCULPTURES CELEBRATE SALMON**

The recently completed bell tower in downtown Vancouver's Esther Short Park is enhanced by four impressively large cast-bronze salmon that appear to be negotiating the tower's four waterfalls. Artists Jim Demetro and Ken Macintosh took almost a year to create the fish. A fifth fish atop the 69-foot tower seems to embody the spirit of wild salmon.

Salmon legend from the rich oral tradition of the Chinook Indians is engraved into the stone benches on the surrounding plaza. On one side of the tower, a first-of-its-kind-in-the-Northwest glockenspiel will soon open its doors twice daily to reveal revolving dioramas and the recorded voice of a Chinook elder recounting the salmon story.

The bell tower was financed by community leader George Propstra, who was impressed by similar structures in Europe and envisioned one in Vancouver. City officials embraced Propstra's vision and developed the salmon theme to celebrate the importance of these extraordinary creatures to our region's history and culture.

## **SAMMY AWARDS RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING LOCAL EFFORTS TO SAVE SALMON**

Groups and individuals were honored for their contributions to salmon recovery in Clark County at the 2002 Sammy Awards, which took place on May 16 at Vancouver's Water Resources Education Center. The Board of Clark County Commissioners and guest of honor D. Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service, presented the awards. They spoke about the necessity of citizen participation in salmon recovery and the value of showcasing outstanding efforts as a way to encourage others to get involved.

### *Sammy Award winners:*

**Clark-Skamania Flyfishers** - Pioneered local salmon recovery efforts, from surveys and data collection to advocating for an environmentally responsible wild salmonid policy.

**Larry and Suzi Clement** - Restored 1200 feet of riparian habitat along their lower Salmon Creek property, creating wide buffers of streamside vegetation rarely found outside of public lands.

**Home Depot** - Promoted environmental education, allowing Clark County staff to display signage that identified salmon-friendly products and to conduct on-site natural gardening workshops.

**Bill Feddeler and the Water Resources Education Center** - Helping young people to care about salmon through participation in the innovative Watershed Monitoring Network.

**Mike Leboki** - The owner of Taylor Trucking in Camas, Mike and his crew volunteered time and labor to haul materials for several habitat restoration projects in the Washougal River watershed.

**Tammy Mackey** - Promoting the cause of salmon recovery through her job as a fish biologist, her work with conservation organizations, and by lobbying congressional leaders on fish issues.

**Gary and Dana Ostenson** - Restored salmon habitat on their Washougal River property, including culvert replacement, erosion control, and creating a 700-foot off-channel rearing pond.

**Tom and Sandra Pagel** - Restored 7 acres of riparian area on their Mill Creek property. Thousands of native trees and shrubs were planted. Livestock was fenced away from the creek.

**Jennifer Sharp** - Inspiring students to learn about their watershed and to care about salmon. Obtained grants to upgrade classroom technology. Implemented a student mentorship program.

### *Commissioners Sammy Award winner:*

**John Pennington** - As a State Representative and a member of the House Natural Resources committee, was instrumental in establishing the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board.

### *Certificates of Merit:*

**Glenn Akins** - For contributions to habitat restoration and salmon education.

**Dick Dyrland** - For dedication to salmon recovery and leadership in restoration and education.

**Evergreen School District** - In recognition of the Earth Saver Pilot Project.

**Peter Illyn** - Encouraging environmental stewardship among Clark County church congregations.

**George Simpson** - For commitment to the conservation of environmentally sensitive land.

**Jim Stolarzyk** - In recognition of pioneering work in restoring streams for salmon.

## **HEATING THE COLUMBIA RIVER**

Each day, the Georgia Pacific paper mill in Camas discharges 35 million gallons of warm, polluted water into the Columbia River. A coalition of environmental groups argues that this poses an unacceptable risk to Columbia River salmon and are urging the Washington Department of Ecology to withdraw a draft permit allowing the discharge to continue daily for the next five years. The coalition is hoping to get the state to adopt the same standards for stricter temperature and water-clarity standards that Oregon adopted a year ago. The Department of Ecology says it has received a large number of comments, which will take several months to review. According to Sandy Howard, public information manager with the DOE, as a result of these concerns, implementation of a new permit has been stalled. "We're basically trying to find a permit that does a delicate

balancing act between environmental protection and allowing an important industry to survive," said Howard.

### **LCFRB SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS**

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB), which serves as southwest Washington's lead entity in salmon recovery, is encouraging groups and agencies to take advantage of state funding for habitat restoration projects. The Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) will approve approximately \$23 million in grant awards statewide in 2003. Local governments and non profit agencies interested in sponsoring protection and restoration projects funded through the SRFB should submit grant proposals to LCFRB, which evaluates and ranks projects within Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties and parts of Lewis, Pacific, and Skamania counties. Examples of projects range from culvert replacement and erosion control to habitat acquisition and riparian restoration. Interested sponsors are encouraged to attend a workshop on July 25, either from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 207 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in Kelso. Call 360-414-4186 for details or visit [www.LCFRB.gen.wa.us](http://www.LCFRB.gen.wa.us).

### **ESA PROGRAM TAKES ITS MESSAGE TO THE COUNTY FAIR**

If you visit the Clark County Fair this August, be sure to drop by the county's ESA Program booth in the government agencies barn, near the grandstand. The booth will be shared with the county's Watershed Stewards Program and will contain information about keeping water clean for people and fish, how to get involved in salmon recovery, and more. For more information, contact Don Lauderdale at 397-2232.

### **CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS, JULY – OCTOBER**

**July 29-August 2**, [Riparian & Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Workshops](#), Forest Grove, OR  
Contact: (503) 748-1363 or [renfro@pdx.edu](mailto:renfro@pdx.edu)

**July 29-August 2**, Columbia Camp, Water Resources Education Center, Vancouver  
Contact Bev Walker, (360) 696-8478 ext. 8416 or [bev.walker@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:bev.walker@ci.vancouver.wa.us)

**August**, Youth Volunteer Corp, Volunteer Center & Water Resources Center, Vancouver  
Contact Cory Samia (360) 696-8478 or [cory.samia@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:cory.samia@ci.vancouver.wa.us).

**August 5-9**, [Riparian & Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Workshops](#), Forest Grove, OR  
Contact: (503) 748-1363 or [renfro@pdx.edu](mailto:renfro@pdx.edu)

**August 7, September 4, October 2**, Clark Co. ESA Advisory Committee Meeting, Vancouver  
For information, call John Tyler at (360) 397-2232

**August 22, September 19**, Wetland & Stream Training, Everett, WA  
Contact: (425) 316-8592

**Sept 7, 28**, Friends of Trees Summer Tree Care, Friendship Park, Vancouver, WA  
Contact Morgan Will at (503) 282-8846, ext. 12 or [morganw@friendsoftrees.org](mailto:morganw@friendsoftrees.org).

**Sept. 26-27**, Watershed Congress, Columbia Springs Environmental Ed. Center, Vancouver  
Contact: (360) 546-9509 or [kraten@vancouver.wsu.edu](mailto:kraten@vancouver.wsu.edu).

**Oct. 2-5**, [River and Watershed Restoration](#), Portland  
Contact: (503) 725-5117 or [bolson@irn.pdx.edu](mailto:bolson@irn.pdx.edu)

**October 7**, Volunteer Orientation, Water Resources Education Center, Vancouver  
Contact Bev Walker (360) 696-8478 ext. 8416 [bev.walker@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:bev.walker@ci.vancouver.wa.us).

**October 17**, Salmon Summit 2002, Whatcom County, Washington  
For details email [wscherrer@n-sea.org](mailto:wscherrer@n-sea.org) or call (360) 715-0283.

### **Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board**

For meeting information, contact the LCFRB at (360) 414-4186 or visit [www.LCFRB.gen.wa.us](http://www.LCFRB.gen.wa.us).

